

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A polymer composite building material comprising:

a composite reinforcement comprising ~~continuous~~ filaments of fibers substantially oriented in at least a first direction substantially continuously along the entire length of said building material, and disposed within ~~polymeric~~ a thermoplastic matrix; and

a capstock polymeric material disposed substantially over and in direct contact with said composite reinforcement;

said building material being resistant to heat deformation and corrosion.

15. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 14 wherein at least said capstock has a dark color.

16. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 15 wherein said heat deformation resistance includes resistance to bowing due to expansion and contraction of said building material when exposed to sunlight.

17. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 16 wherein said composite reinforcement and said capstock are observably discrete portions of said building material.

18. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 14, wherein said composite reinforcement comprises about 20 wt.% fiber content.

19. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 18 wherein said fibers comprise one or more of: glass, aramid or carbon fibers.

20. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 14 wherein said resistance to corrosion includes resistance to chemical gasses or acids.

21. (Previously Added) The building material of claim 14 in which the building material is in the form of a fence, rail, post, or decking component.

22. (Currently Amended) The building material of claim 14 ~~wherein said~~ further comprising a secondary group of fibers ~~are further~~ oriented in a second direction.

23. (Currently Amended) A polymer composite fencing component comprising:

a composite reinforcement comprising continuous filaments of high strength fibers oriented substantially in at least a first longitudinal direction within a thermoplastic polymeric matrix; and

a thermoplastic capstock polymeric material, which is itself adherent to the thermoplastic of said composite reinforcement, said capstock polymeric material disposed substantially over and in contact with said composite reinforcement;

said fencing component being resistant to corrosion and heat deformation due to exposure to sunlight.

24. (Previously Added) The fencing component of claim 23 wherein said composite reinforcement comprises one or more of: roving, fabric or tape.

25. (Previously Added) The fencing component of claim 24 wherein said fabric comprises a uni-directional, multi-axial or woven material.

26. (Previously Added) The fencing component of claim 23 wherein said composite reinforcement comprises a pultrusion.

27. (Previously Added) The fencing component of claim 23 wherein said polymeric matrix comprises a thermoplastic resin.

28. (Previously Added) The fencing component of claim 23 wherein said component has a dark color and a span of at least about 8 feet.

29 - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Added) A polymer composite building material comprising:

a composite reinforcement comprising continuous glass filaments of fibers substantially oriented in at least a first direction within a thermoplastic polymeric matrix, said composite reinforcement having a higher tensile strength than aluminum; and

a capstock polymeric material having a dark color disposed substantially over said composite reinforcement;

said building material being corrosion resistant to chemical gasses or acids and resistant to bowing due to expansion and contraction of said building material upon exposure to sunlight.

39. (Currently Amended) The building material of claim 38 wherein said fibers are oriented in substantially only said first direction for substantially the entire length of said building material.

40. (Currently Amended) The building material of claim 38 wherein said capstock is ~~dark in color~~ directly bonded to said composite reinforcement without additional adhesive or surface treatment.

41. (New) A substantially maintenance free polymer composite ornamental rail or fence component comprising:

a polymer matrix composite comprising high strength glass filaments disposed substantially continuously along the entire length of said rail or fence component; and

a capstock polymeric material having a dark color disposed substantially over and in direct contact with said composite reinforcement, said rail or fence component being substantially stabilized when exposed to uneven contraction and expansion forces, despite a difference in heat buildup on its surface due to sunlight.

42. (New) The component of claim 41 wherein said polymer of said polymeric matrix composite and said capstock both contain a thermoplastic resin.

43. (New) The component of claim 41 wherein said composite is a pultrusion.